specifications, equipments such as Hot Mix Plant, Paver finisher etc. and new materials like Modified Bitumen, Geosynthetic etc. is already being adopted for upgradation and maintenance of National Highways. Technological upgradation is a continuous process.

(e) and (f) New technology is cost effective on life cycle cost basis.

National Road Transport Policy

2207. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Road Transport has outlined a National Road Transport Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the main emphasis in the proposed policy is on private participation, rationalization of motor vehicles tax regime across the country, etc.;

(c) the other salient features of the proposed policy;

(d) whether his Ministry can think of involving cooperative societies to train unemployed youth in road maintenance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) This Department had drafted a National Road Transport Policy and circulated it to the key stake holders such as State Government, concerned Central Ministries/Departments for consultation. The draft policy document envisages public-private partnership in road construction projects, rationalization of motor vehicle tax regime in order to facilitate inter-State movement of motor vehicles. Other salient aspects in the draft policy document are development of a data-base, development of backward areas, emphasis on environment, technological up-gradation, barriers on National Highways, hazards to road safety including road side hoardings, unauthorized speed brakers, overloading of motor vehicles, preventive measures for road accidents, employment generation etc.

(d) and (e) The draft National Road Transport Policy also envisages employment generation including the possibilities of formation of co-operative societies of unempolyed youths by the State Governments and

these societies could be mobilized to take up the assignments for maintenance, tree plantation, protection of assets etc.

Pedestrian Overbridge on NH No. 5

2208. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive report has been prepared on new guidelines and rules on the ideal conditions where a "Pedestrian Overbridge" would be built on N.H. No. 5;

(b) whether the assured inspection of the Gundugolanu area on N.H. No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh has been completed;

(c) whether the technical experts have visited the spot recently;

(d) the specific steps that would be taken to address the serious concerns raised by the Road Safety Forum, Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(e) the time schedule to solve the pending issues in the interest of road safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (e) A consultant is being appointed for 'Road Safety Audit' for Gundugulam-Tuni Section of NH-5. The scope of work includes to examine requirement of various additional facilities including pedestrian overbridge. Various demands raised by Road Safety forum and other organizations are also included in the scope of work. The report of Road Safety Audit is likey tobe completed in December, 2006. Improvement of work based on the Road Safety Audit would be taken up accordingly.

Reduction of Toll Tax

2209. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has a system to determine the tollage and different charges for any particular section of highways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the toll rates are rather arbitrary on National Highway 5 in Andhra Pradesh;